



Lester E. Hawley
President

GREATER NEW ENGLAND ALLIANCE
OF
BLACK SCHOOL EDUCATORS
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Senator Toni Harp
Appropriation Committee Co-Chair
Legislative Office Building, Room 2700
Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

February 9, 2009

Dear Senator Harp,

In response to Governor Rell's proposed budget, it is with grave disappointment that I write to you about the possibility of the elimination of the AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION. The AAAC has been a supporting arm of GNEABSE in our effort to improve the status of all of our students, but particularly, African-American students. You are well aware of the existence of 'Two Connecticuts' and the impact this has upon the achievement of our students. Your work around the State to improve the 'lot' of students is to be commended. As such, I implore you to do all that you can to secure the position of the AAAC. The improvement of the educational demographics of our African-American students has been ever so slight, whereas the societal ills that continue to plague our Black communities continue to present an uneven playing field for them. The accomplishments and sterling effort of the AAAC should not be overlooked or revoked. It would be a travesty to the commitment of institutions such as the AAAC if that were to happen.

Respectfully submitted,

Lester E. Hawley
GNEABSE, President

Cc: AAAC